Hays and Producers to Make Survey of Film Fan Magazines by Way of Censoring Sensationalism

Canadian Moving Picture DIGEST

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RADIO MUSIC HALL

TO go into Radio Music Hall is an inspiration. The vastness of this theatre with its futuristic motif, which still leaves the theatre intimate, is one of the miracles of its architectural genius.

Leonidoff, of Shea's, Toronto Hippodrome, and Uptown presentation days, last week presented a stage offering, "Scent, Taste, Touch, Sound, Sight". It was beautiful, it was clever, it had a comedy angle, it had music, perfume, song, the dance. It had perfection. It was sensuous. It was Entertainment.

The orchestra played that old favorite, "Poet and Peasant". The picture, "Canary Island", a Lasky-Fox film, was twaddle. It reminded us of a Judge who asked Mandy why she desired to divorce Sambo, and her only reason was "I jes naturally lost ma taste fer dat man".

"BLOCK BOOKING"

CANON CHASE of "ye good olde film days" of "chasing the bad out of films", was fond of these words, which he gleaned from the Industry's conflicts within itself, just as he gathered up what was supposed to be wrong with Motion Pictures when he secured from the producers a list of vices they would not introduce into films. You remember that he promptly presented this list to the United States public and the Government, in order that he might reveal what a menace Motion Pictures could be.

We hope that Motion Pictures will not repeat this former foolishness of presenting a list of what it will not do. Such a list is, after all, merely negative. It is much more constructive, if any list is required, to present one which tells a good story. For instance, "The Motion Picture Industry will continue to adapt world-famous classics to the screen, such classics being at the present time unfamiliar to the present generation of cheap reading."

"The Motion Picture Industry will endeavor to select fine voices for the screen, and stories in which the Art of conversation and voice quality are emphasized, in order that the public may appreciate good diction, conversation and tonal qualities, which this age of machine, noise and hurry is destroying," etc., etc.

Certainly not a statement which presents: "Producers will in future refrain from presenting scenes of seduction, of drinking parties," etc., etc.

If you hunt up your files and read what Motion Pictures handed to Canon Chase some years ago, you will not be surprised at our reminder. An important factor in all this Church Crusade is to have the courage of your own convictions. Producers and Distributors are men who know the business world. They know what the newspapers, the magazines, the publishers are offering to the people. To-day is the day of "cheap and hurried reading"—the day of scandal and gossip by way of the published word. Everyone is doing it, from statesmen to chorus girls, the latter who tell you "Why I went wrong," and the former who reveal the truth about wars, state politics and international diplomacy.

Your badness, Motion Pictures, is indeed as an Infant; in a world in which men in high places do not tell stories of life upon a screen as you do, but gamble for high stakes with life.

This is the Selling Season for Motion Pictures. It is the duty of Producers and Distributors to fortify the Exhibitor, and convince him that in the exhibition of Motion Pictures he is operating a business which gives the public more legitimate value for its money; and a squarer deal than nine out of ten other businesses, which are in operation in the United States and in Canada.

RAY

RAY LEWIS

PRESENTS

THE Public is a Loud Speaker. It likes to call the Classes Profiteers and itself a Martyr. It respects and flatters no one, but it continually desires to be respected and flattered. We in Motion Pictures who love our Public and pray for a reciprocal affection should understand the object of our love.

The Public likes to bully, and yet it calls itself "a sport and a good fellow". It will make a god of a good orator, who starts off by calling everyone and everything names.

It loves to make gods so that it can crucify them. It will always shout "Give us Barabbas" when its lust for blood is aroused.

IT WILL sell its franchise for a glass of beer, or a dollar, because it reacts to a common impulse, "the poor would like to be as rich as the rich".

It has no sense of appreciation, or gratitude, only after its benefactor is dead.

Its respect for Virtue is superstitious and crosses into the domain of The Miraculous!

When Moses taught a God of Fear, he knew that Fear, and not Love, was the Right Kind of a God-Master for a people long-used to slavery.

Sir Wilfred Laurier, the great Liberal leader, was defeated, because he saw the trade of the American continent benefited by Reciprocity years ahead of his time. Slander, racial, and religious hatreds, whipped into the channels of electioneering campaigning, defeated Laurier. Had he himself utilized such propaganda, he would have been elected Prime Minister of Canada at the time he was defeated. But the Public is more easily swayed by cunning, by hatred, than it is by statesmanship and logic.

Laurier received boisterous and sincere applause wherever and whenever he spoke. He said to The Public, "Applaud me less, but give me more votes." The answer to this common-sense appeal was less votes, although the appeal was received with "thunderous applause".

WHEN Mrs. Joshua Smith (Ray Lewis) spoke to The Public, in her recent electioneering campaign, she was received with "thunderous applause". Her opponents adopted her social legislation platform and The Public forgot that she inspired her opponents into such an adoption.

Whenever The Industry of Motion Pictures has been attacked, Ray Lewis has given time, energy and her money in a defence of Motion Pictures. When Ray Lewis appealed to the Industry of Motion Pictures to support her in her recent campaign for Member of Parliament, the Industry of Motion Pictures in Canada, with but two exhibitor-exceptions, remained indifferent, while Joe Rosenfeld of Columbia Pictures, and others, slandered and attacked Ray Lewis publicly, organized against her and in some instances gave large sums of money to defeat her!

WHEN Ray Lewis sought to distribute British pictures in Canada she was stopped and told to stick to The Canadian Moving Picture Digest, and not trespass upon the domain of film distribution.

But whose territory was Ray Lewis trespassing upon when she entered the field as a candidate for Member of Parliament?

Referring again to The Public, it likes to be looked upon as a gentleman, when in reality it is only a pig, with apologies to the pig, for the latter was born with a grunt, born with an instinct to wallow in dirt and cut its own throat when it tries to swim.

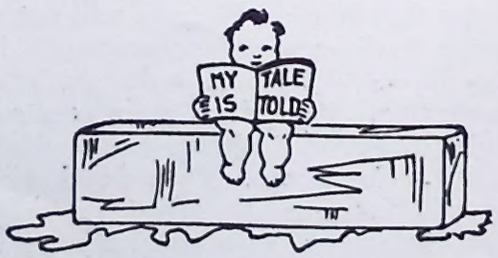
THIS appears rather a hopeless proposition, but since there is hope and faith, the invincibility or the inevitability of Right, the Damn Fool Public, that Knave of a Public occasionally "gets mad" and despoils the despoilers, even at the cost of its own destruction. This amazing procedure gives just the right touch to the Business of Living and makes Civilization an Evolutionary Process toward Legislation of The People's Rights.

The Magna Charta was signed, despite the kingship and power of King John, when The Public was educated to what it thought was right.

The Declaration of Independence helped to create a great nation, when The Public was educated to what it thought was Right.

THERE is power in the power of wealth, in position, but the greatest power lies in the unconquerable spirit within oneself.

Kings, Emperors, Warriors of the Past are Dust, and not only in the Dust of Yesterday, but in the greatness of their power.



Marie Dressler Passes Away

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Observations

By The Editor

THE STRIKE of the longshoremen at San Francisco carries a lesson for all of us. Now we can understand how Dictators acquire their power in foreign countries; and how easily we can drift into a state of civil war, riot and revolution.

* * * *

THE lesson of San Francisco should serve its purpose in the matter of the Church boycott of the Motion Picture Industry, which developed from the protest of one religious organization to an affiliation of Catholic, Protestant, and Hebrew organizations; and not content with a Church protest, organized its propaganda to include other welfare and educational associations, and latterly the Press.

* * * *

FROM the position of carrying on a persuasive campaign, The Church grew belligerent, domineering, dictatorial; and organized a boycott, published pledges for the public to sign, with the "fear of sin" as a bludgeon, and then The Church proceeded to picket theatres.

From a position of protest against certain films, dignitaries of The Church proceeded to make public statements in which The Church declared it would not be impartial to any films, the whole Industry stood condemned, and the political angle loomed into view when The Church ventured into the field of Block and Blind Booking constituting to make itself a body whose dictation surmounted the NRA Motion Picture Administration Code.

In fact, The Church introduced a policy which made it The President of the United States!

This film boycott should be called off by administrator General Johnson, just as he called off the San Francicso strike.

* * * *

IF it were not for Unions, which have strengthened the position of Labour, there are a sufficient number of that Breed, called Boss, that would grind Labour to death. They are so greedy and acquisitive that it actually irritates and annoys them to see anyone making a living. They have an idea that money is power; and their lust for money-power is so great that some of this breed have not even stopped at organized murder to reach their objective.

* * * *

IT is equally true that "Strikes" have secured for Labour their "rights" on many occasions; and the Law gives Labour the right to organize and to "strike", but when "organized Labour" steps into the domain of a general strike, disorganizing a whole city in order that one particular unit of its Labour organization may secure its particular "rights", when such a "Union of Forces" begins to close eating places, control food supplies, traffic, etc., and takes upon itself the authority of setting up a new government, handing out "permits" or a "license" to do business, this is in the nature of Anarchy, and dangerous to a city and a nation. It is only a few steps removed from Revolution!

IN Canada, certain Judges, in fact the Hon. Sir William Mulock, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Ontario, made a statement to the effect that certain commissions, or bodies were making laws which were taking away the Rights of Law from the people; and were usurping the jurisdiction of the Courts of Justice.

Recently this state of affairs was also subjected to criticism in the United States.

* * * *

IN respect to a general strike, such as we had in San Francisco, and the general film boycott as organized by The Church across the United States, repercussions of which we experienced in Canada; and statements made that this anti-film crusade would be made world-wide, there presents before our view a situation somewhat similar to that one in San Francisco. A Film Boycott not only interferes with Film Trade, but Employment and numerous trades and professions dependent upon The Film Trade.

* * * *

THE establishment of a Labour control, or a Church Government, to win their respective rights, in accordance with their own particular viewpoint, is contrary to any State of Government. The latter should be and is supreme in the direct or indirect control of all Enterprises which operate under a license to the State.

* * * *

LABOUR need not go to the extremes in action which it was compelled to go to in the past. The new civilization which we are building, believe it or not, has divided the people into two classes, Labour and Finance! All that Finance can do is to draw interest, which makes more Finance, or convert money into Labour for the purpose of protecting its capital, which capital in the final analysis is but an easier method of exchange in the matter of Trade and Commerce, the latter which represents product, which in turn represents Labour.

Labour has the advantage in that it is self-sufficient unto the Labourer. He can produce, through a system of an exchange of actual product, sufficient for his living.

Finance cannot feed, nor clothe itself, it can trade only in money, if cut off from Product and Labour.

* * * *

THERE has always been a struggle between Capital and Labour, each seeking their respective rights; and in the battle Labour has not always been victor, since we are still subconsciously on The Gold Standard.

All capitalists are not monopolists, or obsessed with Greed. If this was not a fact Labour Unions would never have won for Labour any of its rights. Some Labour organizers are not less greedy than some Monopolists. These two pests, the Labour-grabber and the Financial-grabber, upset the Applecart of Life.

That is one of the excellent institutions of the Soviet regime; traitors and double-crossers are sent to the Kingdom of Heaven, where no doubt they make an attempt to steal the wings of angels, the keys from St. Peter, or perchance the tail from the devil.

Variety's Review M-G-M "Stamboul Quest" states "An Exciting Story Well-Handled and Class"

Show Business

M-G-M Announces Purchase of Two Stories

Rupert Hughes's story, "The Old Nest", and James Hilton's Atlantic Monthly novelette, "Goodbye Mr. Chips", have been acquired for pictures by Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer. "The Old Nest" was originally published in the Saturday Evening Post and was produced as a silent film in 1921. No selections for either production have yet been announced.

Universal to Film Dickens Novel

R. C. Sherriff, noted English author of "Journey's End", will arrive on the Majestic this week and will go direct to Universal City to work on the script of "Great Expectations" the Dickens novel which Stuart Walker will direct with Henry Hull starred. Sherriff's second assignment will be another Dickens classic, the unfinished "Mystery of Edwin Drood", which he will give a novel, unusual twist.

Charlotte Henry in "Babes in Toyland"

Two new names have been added to the roster of players who will appear in support of Stan Laurel and Oliver Hardy in Hal Roach's screen version of Victor Herbert's operetta, "Babes in Toyland", which will go into production the latter part of this month, Charlotte Henry and Henry Kleinbach.

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"Treasure Island" Well Received at Coast Preview

"Treasure Island", with Wallace Beery, Jackie Cooper and Lionel Barrymore, was given an unprecedented response last week at a coast preview.

The special advance showing of the new M-G-M picture, which has been in work several months and has one of the outstanding casts of the year, drew a capacity house, with many standees, and resulted in rounds of applause that left no doubt as to the spontaneous enthusiasm of the audience. According to professional persons and newspapersmen who were present, the picture turns Stevenson's famous book into one of the most exciting photoplays ever made.

Victor Fleming is the director of "Treasure Island", which was made under Hunt Stromberg's supervision. The cast includes Lewis Stone, Otto Kruger, Nigel Bruce, Cora Sue Collins and William V. Mong.

RKO Radio to Produce "Three Musketeers"

RKO Radio Pictures announces, in association with Pioneer Pictures, it will produce "The Three Musketeers" in the new Technicolor process. This is the process used so successfully in the production of the short subject, "La Cucharacha", which Pioneer Pictures recently made and which RKO Radio will soon release.

Morton Downey, famous radio tenor, is the latest star to be added to the aggregation of leading stage, radio and screen performers signed by Sam Sax, production head of the Brooklyn Vitaphone Studio, for appearance in Vitaphone short subjects.

Sails to Photograph "Scarlet Pimpernel"

Hal Rosson, one of Hollywood's ace cameramen, arrived in New York Friday to board the Olympic for England where he will shortly start work on "The Scarlet Pimpernel", the London Films production to be released through United Artists.

Rosson is most recently represented by his camera work on "Tarzan, the Ape Man" and others. His visits to the studios at Elstree in England is part of the plan to interchange acting and technical talent between the producers in the United States and Great Britain.

Gaumont-British Studios Busy

The Shepherd's Bush Studios of Gaumont-British are running full time, with the following films now in production:

"Evensong", with Evelyn Laye; "The Man Who Knew Too Much", with Edna Best and Leslie Banks; "Roadhouse"; "Man Save the Queen", with Tom Walls, and Binnie Hale and Gordon Harker in "The Phantom Light".

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For further information, apply to La Société de Prêts et Placements de Québec, 81 St. Peter St., Quebec, Canada.

Toronto Theatres

LOEW'S—Manager Jules Bernsein — "Murder in the Private Car", a Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer picture, with Charlie Ruggles, Una Merkel and Mary Carlisle.

IMPERIAL—Manager Jack Arthur — The Monogram production "Jane Eyre", with Virginia Bruce and Colin Clive.

TIVOLI—Manager D. Krendal — Double-feature program, "Double Door", and "Here Comes The Groom", both Paramount releases.

SHEA'S—Manager Jerry Shea — Richard Barthelmess with Ann Dvorak in "Midnight Alibi", a First National picture.

UPTOWN—Manager Tom Daley — "The Old-Fashioned Way", a Paramount picture starring W. C. Fields.

Bandit Dillinger Shot to Death Leaving Chicago Movie Theatre

"You Ain't Heard Nothin' Yet!"

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We'll Give You Details of

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